



منظمة وقاية النباتات  
الشرق الأدنى  
NEAR EAST PLANT  
PROTECTION  
ORGANIZATION



# EPPO/IOBC/FAO/NEPPO Joint International Symposium on management of *Tuta absoluta* (tomato borer)

Agadir, Morocco, November 16-18, 2011

## ITALY

### **Biological control of *Tuta absoluta* in Argentina and in Italy: evaluation of indigenous insects as natural enemies**

**Luna, M. Gabriela<sup>1</sup>, Norma E Sánchez<sup>1</sup>, Patricia C Pereyra<sup>1</sup>, Eliana Nieves<sup>1</sup>, Vivina Savino<sup>1</sup> & Stefano Speranza<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*Centro de Estudio Parasitologicos y de vectores (CEPAVE) CCT-CONYCET y UNLP) La Plata, Argentina*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Agriculture, Forests, Nature and Energy, University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy*

Biological and ecological attributes of *Tuta absoluta*, as well as, some aspects of parasitoid-host interaction of *T. absoluta* egg and larval parasitoids in the laboratory and in the field. Currently, results indicate that immature *T. absoluta* stages are attacked by a parasitoid community spontaneously present in tomato crops in Buenos Aires (Argentina) and in Italy. Especially for the larval stage, the parasitoid wasps *Pseudapanteles dignus* and *Dineulophus pthorimaeae* are proven to coexist in the field, and show characteristics that suggest that they could be considered as biocontrol agents against the pest by means of augmentative releases. Field evaluation of effective biological control achieved by *P. dignus* and/or *D. pthorimaeae* will assess their compatibility with IPM on tomato, and our assessment of economic feasibility of parasitoid mass rearing.

#### Acknowledgements

This research was supported by “Analysis of the diversity of potential natural enemies of tomato moth *Tuta absoluta* in Italy” “Evaluación de la factibilidad de aplicación de control biológico para *Tuta absoluta* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae), plaga recientemente ingresada en Italia.” MINCYT-MAE cod. IT/10/08